

Academic Programs and Planning Committee Feedback on the 4+1 Undergraduate/Graduate Dual Degree Concentrations in American Studies.

The APP committee reviewed the proposal on March 24, 2022. This proposal does not propose a new degree program but rather pathways for students to enter the Masters in American Studies through several majors. It will be an information item for the State of New Jersey and is not subject to the review and approval process through the Secretary of Higher Education. The committee therefore unanimously voted to send the proposal to Faculty Senate with a single reading at APP, with clarifications strongly recommended to strengthen the proposal prior to submission to the senate. The proposal provided students additional options and academic challenge while decreasing the financial barriers facing students interesting in earning a master’s degree. Resources are used efficiently to provide a more flexible degree offering through dual degree programs with Africana Studies, Historical Studies and Sociology and Anthropology adding to the existing path via Literature. This document must be included in the information provided to the Senate.

Discussion	Recommendations
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. How and when will students be admitted in this program? 2. The list of electives is not included, so therefore, can students take undergraduate courses as electives? From the American Studies curriculum site, it appears that the courses may be at the graduate level – but the courses are not identified on the web page either. The committee is left to assume the electives will be at the graduate level. 3. Why is MAST5000 and 5001 a cognate for Africana Studies as opposed to History or Sociology/Anthropology? If you allow students to take one of these electives and count them towards any one of these three degrees, how will this contribute to undergrad curriculum? The links between the UG side and the graduate side are unclear. The Africana Studies program only includes 7 courses, 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Clarify admissions and tracking. 2. Clarify electives at the graduate level. 3. Specify the different levels of courses applied to grad or UG between tracks. A uniform format of curriculum maps could clarify.

Discussion	Recommendations
<p>but the History track includes 8. There are 2 core courses and 7 electives instead of 8 electives. Are they counting senior capstone as a graduate level course? It says something like if they get an A, it will count as a grad course. This is only in AFRI, not in HIST. Why are some courses an elective at the graduate level and others on the UG side in the different tracks? This may need to be specified.</p> <p>4. What is the benefit of the MA? What about a market analysis? What are the expectations for job placement?</p> <p>5. More information about the programs in existence and the outcomes for graduates might help to support this proposal. What are the outcomes for graduates with a bachelor's vs masters in terms of employment?</p> <p>6. Comprehensive Assessment Plan is missing.</p>	<p>4. Please consider a Gray Analysis to strengthen the proposal.</p> <p>5. Please consider.</p> <p>6. Please consider adding.</p>